

By: Strama

H.B. No. 517

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to annual stipends provided to public school teachers who
3 serve as mentors to other public school teachers.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 21.458, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (b-1), (c-1), (c-2),
7 and (c-3) to read as follows:

8 (b-1) The board of trustees of a school district that
9 assigns teachers to serve as mentors under this section shall:

10 (1) adopt a policy, consistent with any rules adopted
11 by the commissioner under this section, that governs the selection
12 and duties of teachers assigned to serve as mentors; and

13 (2) ensure that a mentor teacher stipend under this
14 section is provided only to a teacher who fulfills the duties
15 specified in the policy required by Subdivision (1).

16 (c) From the funds allocated under Section 21.703 or other
17 funds appropriated to the agency for purposes of this section, the
18 commissioner shall adopt rules and provide funding to school
19 districts that assign mentor teachers under this section. Funding
20 provided to districts under this section may be used only for
21 providing:

22 (1) mentor teacher stipends in the amount of \$1,000
23 per teacher for each school year during which the teacher serves as
24 a mentor;

1 (2) scheduled time for mentor teachers to provide
2 mentoring to assigned classroom teachers; and

3 (3) mentoring support through providers of mentor
4 training.

5 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), a school district may
6 use funds provided under that subsection for a purpose authorized
7 by Subsection (c)(2) or (3) only to the extent that funds remain
8 after fully funding the stipends authorized by Subsection (c)(1).

9 (c-2) Subsection (c-1) does not create a property right of a
10 teacher to receive a stipend. If a school district receives
11 insufficient funds to fully fund the stipends, the district shall
12 reduce the stipend the district pays to each teacher serving as a
13 mentor proportionately so that each teacher serving as a mentor
14 receives the same amount of money.

15 (c-3) A stipend a teacher receives under this section is not
16 considered in determining whether the district is paying the
17 teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

18 SECTION 2. Section 21.703(a), Education Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (a) Each state fiscal year, the commissioner shall deposit
21 the sum of \$1,000 multiplied by the number of classroom teachers in
22 this state to the credit of the educator excellence fund in the
23 general revenue fund. Each state fiscal year, the agency shall use:

24 (1) from the funds in the educator excellence fund,
25 the amount necessary to fund stipends under Section 21.458 for
26 teachers who serve as mentors to other teachers, provided that not
27 more than \$70 million may be used for this purpose each fiscal year;

1 (2) not more than \$100 million of any remaining ~~[the]~~
2 funds in the educator excellence fund to provide grant awards under
3 the awards for student achievement program established under
4 Subchapter N; and

5 (3) ~~[(2)]~~ any remaining funds in the educator
6 excellence fund to provide a qualifying school district a grant in
7 an amount determined by:

8 (A) dividing the amount of remaining money
9 available for distribution in the educator excellence fund by the
10 total number of students in average daily attendance in qualifying
11 districts for that fiscal year; and

12 (B) multiplying the amount determined under
13 Paragraph (A) by the number of students in average daily attendance
14 in the district.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.